

SHARING GOOD NEWS ST PAUL'S UCC DELANO MN

Volume 3 Issue 10

October 2026

OCTOBER CALENDAR

10/04 Communion

10/11 Worship Committee Meeting 10:30 am

10/25 Council Meeting 10:30 am

10/25 German Evangelical Historical Service (see Page 6)

10/31 Halloween

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

10/04 Holm

10/11 Open

10/18 Open

10/25 Open

BIRTHDAYS

10/06 Sam McCurry

10/14 Margaret Groskreutz

10/16 Monty Hillman

*Pastor Karen Larson's Installation
Sunday, September 20th. See page 3*

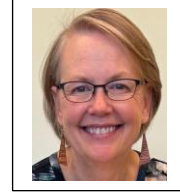


Rev. Mary Koon, Pastor Karen & President Meg Conrard

BE THE CHURCH

On September 13 and 20, nine members of the congregation shared reflections on what the nine lines of our "Be The Church" signs mean to them. Written versions of these are being organized into a small booklet. Pick up a copy at church, or let us know if you want one mailed to you.

Note from Pastor Karen Larson



October 2026

Every move a prayer.

“See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:15-18, NRSVUE)

I am so grateful for our church, and thankful that you have welcomed and integrated me into this remarkable community of faith. The formal Service of Installation on September 20 makes our relationship official, and it was a joy to celebrate with you, members of the UCC Conference and two of the formative pastors in my life, along with Steve, my mother, my daughters Gina and Joy, and several long-time friends.

The Scripture reading for that service came from 1 Thessalonians, likely the oldest book in the New Testament. Paul is writing to one of the earliest Christ communities with basics for how to be the Church. In Rev. Brian Entz’s charge to our church on September 20, he expanded on the line, “pray without ceasing,” calling on our church to pray in all we do, in essence, to pray with our feet.

Isn’t this what we have been talking about? How our actions bring our faith to life? Earlier in September, nine thoughtful St. Paul’s folks reflected on the nine bold commands of our colorful church signs. I was moved by how differently—and beautifully—each person wove their personality, theology, and life experiences into enlivening the words. Thank you for Being the Church!

Now we are in the midst of the Season of Creation, exploring the significance of water in our lives. Water is the primary life-giving element of Creation, and thus “living water” becomes the symbol of God’s grace and presence. On September 27, many worshippers—including several guests—poured water from their favorite waterways into a shared bowl, and told us about their relationship with that water. It was lovely! Let us continue to search for ways to “Protect the Environment.”

Soon we will be leaning into the election season ahead. With our participation in democracy—voting for the common good, making sure a parent or friend’s mail-in ballot is complete, working as an election judge, and helping neighbors vote in person—we have yet another chance to Be the Church, and live out our faith in action. May the lines of that colorful sign, and the commands of Jesus to love God and neighbor, guide our choices on November 3, and always.

Being the Church with you,

Pastor Karen

Mike Hagerty's installation Charge to Pastor Karen, September 20, 2026:

It is my honor today to Charge Pastor Karen Larson. Charge is a brand-new term in my faith journey. When I asked for input on how to proceed, Karen told me that I would really only be speaking to her, while everyone else would be listening. Also please give me some direction as to what St Paul's wants and needs from me a Pastor. I am very proud to take this on while representing a congregation I truly love. I will speak briefly to all gathered this afternoon prior to this Charge.

This church has been here a long time. Built in 1880, and as of today, officially 26 pastors have served here. Some would say we are headed in the right direction as Pastor Karen will be one of three female settled pastors in recent history.

I also want to give a shout out to the Search Committee. We might not be here today if not for them. Following a little over two years work, they were able to find an interim and settled pastor. Not an easy chore.

Deanna Becker, chairperson. Shelley, Shala, Judy, Laura and the Holy Spirit (usually invited and always accepted to be a part of our committee.) We had a token male... me.

The book of Acts often describes how the Holy Spirit helped drive the early church. In the Message Bible Chapter 20, verse 28 is where our charge will start today with Pastor Karen. "Be on your toes." The Holy Spirit suggests that Pastor Karen as our shepherd will guide and protect us. "God himself thought they were worth dying for."

We suggest:

Speak to us all.

Listen to us all.

Push us all.

Ministry does not belong to the pastor alone.

We charge you to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ with courage and compassion. Preach hope, practice hospitality, and speak truth in love. Honor the faith, traditions, stories, and ministries that have shaped this congregation.

When in doubt or difficulty, check in with God, Steve, your family, your Spiritual Director and don't forget the JoJo's.

After prayerful consideration, look outside at our multicolored "Be the Church" signs that flank this beautiful church - and pick a subject.

Help us be not only a congregation that gathers, but a people who are sent out into the world in Christ name. Take us where we have not been.

May the Holy Spirit guide your ministry among us. May God bless the work we undertake together. And may our life in Covenant bear witness to God's inclusive love and transforming justice in the world.

We welcome you pastor Karen. You belong here. And we send you forth to serve among us and with us. Amen.







Harvest Cookies

This recipe was provided by Penny Bailey at Pastor Karen's Installation Reception along with other goodies.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 C Butter | 1 Tsp Baking Soda |
| 3/4 C Sugar | 1 Tsp Cinnamon |
| 3/4 C Brown Sugar | 3 C Oatmeal |
| 2 Eggs | 1 C White Choc. Chips |
| 1 Tsp Vanilla | 3/4 C Dried Blueberries |
| 2 Tbsp Milk | 3/4 C Dried Cranberries |
| 1-1/2 C Flour | |
| Optional: 1-1/2 C of Dried Berries and Cherries | |
| Bake 350 Degrees approximately 10 minutes | |
| 4 Dozen Cookies | |



Pictured Lani, Penny and Karen

SEASON OF CREATION: CARING FOR EVERY DROP

The Hidden Water Beneath Delano

Delano's drinking water comes from wells in the Quaternary Buried Artesian aquifer. This is not an underground lake. It is groundwater held in spaces within ancient sand and gravel deposits left by glaciers and covered by layers of finer sediment. "Buried" describes those overlying layers, while "artesian" means the water is under pressure. Wright County mapping shows that buried aquifers vary from place to place: some areas receive relatively recent recharge, while water in other locations can be much older because glacial till, (an unsorted layered mixture of clay sand, gravel and boulders), slows its movement. These protective layers reduce vulnerability, but they do not make the aquifer immune to contamination or overuse. Conserving water and preventing pollution are therefore acts of care for neighbors today and for generations to come.

How Much Water Do We Use—and How Can We Help Replace It?

Delano's water comes from groundwater, and Delano Municipal Utilities reports an average pumping rate of about 500,000 gallons per day. Over a year, that adds up to about 182.5 million gallons of water for homes, businesses, schools, churches, and other community needs. Delano also receives about 30 inches of precipitation in an average year. But only a small share of that rain and snowmelt becomes deep groundwater recharge. For a buried aquifer protected by clay and other fine-grained layers, a reasonable estimate is that about 5–15% of precipitation may eventually make its way downward, and perhaps closer to 5–10% in places where the confining layers slow the movement of water.

That means water conservation matters. Every gallon we do not waste is a gallon that does not have to be pumped from the aquifer. Residents can help by fixing leaks, using efficient dishwashers and washing machines, watering lawns less often, planting native or drought-tolerant landscaping, and following Delano's watering schedule. We can also help recharge groundwater by keeping more rain where it falls: using rain gardens, rain barrels, compost-amended soil, permeable pavement, and native plantings that slow runoff and allow water to soak in. Protecting aquifers is not only about using less water; it is also about giving rain and snowmelt a better chance to return slowly and cleanly to the ground beneath us.

Protecting the Water We Share

During the Season of Creation, we remember that clean water is both a gift and a shared responsibility. Delano residents can help protect the South Fork Crow River and groundwater by keeping leaves, grass clippings, pet waste, oil, paint, and other pollutants out of streets and storm drains. Use fertilizer only when a soil test shows it is needed, choose phosphorus-free products when appropriate, and maintain a strip of native plants near shorelines or drainage areas. Rain gardens and rain barrels can slow runoff, while holding ponds give stormwater a place to settle before it reaches rivers and wetlands. Permeable surfaces—such as permeable driveways, patios, and walkways—allow rain and snowmelt to soak into the ground instead of rushing into storm drains. Proper disposal of household chemicals also keeps contaminants from entering soil and water. Small acts of care, practiced across a community, can make a lasting difference.

Reflection: Living Water for Creation and Community

The Season of Creation invites us to see water not only as something we use, but as a sign of God's life-giving presence and a gift entrusted to our care for our community, this means that caring for water is an act of faith, gratitude, and neighborly love. Protecting storm drains, conserving groundwater, planting native vegetation, reducing runoff, and keeping pollutants out of rivers and aquifers are practical ways to honor the Creator's gift. When we care for the water beneath us and around us, we join the river of healing pictured in Scripture: a stream of renewal that begins with God and flows outward for the life of the world.



Alter Decorated for Season of Creation

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19TH CENTURY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Go back in time to a historic German Evangelical church service, in a sanctuary built when cattle still grazed outside. Gemütlichkeit and refreshments!

Delano Sesquicentennial

**3:00 PM
SUN
OCT 25**

*St. Paul's United Church of Christ
201 Buffalo St., Delano
(take Bridge St. west of downtown)*

Pastor Kent Meyer will be back to lead service